

STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF ALBANY

SECOND MONTHLY MEETING

Supervisor Palow led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the second monthly meeting to order at 7:00PM with the following members present: Councilmembers Clayton, Doolin, Vane & Thiem, Town Clerk De Oliveira was also present.

Correspondence/Announcements

Supervisor Palow announced that he received a letter of resignation from Sean Lyons, the Parks and Recreation Board Chairman. Town Clerk De Oliveira read a letter announcing the Puckerstreet Fair from the town of Knox set for June as well as a letter of support for the Helderberg Lake tax district from resident Niels LaCour.

Residents of Clarksville Judy Times & Mary Collins were present and spoke of the fear they have living downstream from the dam and spoke of the flooding during Hurricane Irene. Also present and making public comments against the tax district was Victor Procopio. LaCour was present as well and thanked the Town Clerk for reading his letter.

NEW BUSINESS

**Approving Town Clerk to Advertise for Parks & Recreation Chairman**

Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Vane to allow Town Clerk De Oliveira to advertise for a new Parks and Recreation Chairman, all were in favor and the motion passed.

**Approving Hire of Kevin Bloodgood for Transfer Station**

Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Clayton to hire Kevin Bloodgood part time at \$19.57 an hour for 24 hours bi-weekly at the transfer station. Supervisor Palow, Councilmembers Clayton, Doolin, Thiem and Vane all voted aye. Motion carries.

OLD BUSINESS

**Helderberg Lake Association**

Many were present to discuss and bring forward points both for and against the proposed Helderberg Tax District including Attorney David Brennan. Judy Times & Mary Collins- residents of Clarksville spoke of the fear they have living downstream from the dam and spoke of the events during Hurricane Irene. Many good questions were asked to residents of Helderberg Lake by board members.

After more discussion Supervisor Palow made a motion seconded by councilmember Vane to hold a public hearing on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6PM to have more discussion on the proposed Tax District, Supervisor Palow & Councilmembers Clayton, Doolin and Thiem voted aye

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business or discussion, Supervisor Palow made the motion seconded by Councilmember Clayton to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with the following roll call vote: Supervisor Palow, and Councilmembers Dooling, Thiem, Vane & Clayton voting aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:19PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kristin De Oliveira, Town Clerk

March 23, 2022

Kristin De Oliveira, Town Clerk  
P.O. Box 57  
Town of Berne, NY 12023

**RE: HLCA Special Tax District Letter of Support**

Dear Ms. Clayton,

I am writing this letter in support for the Helderberg Lake Community Association's (HLCA) application to create a Special Tax District. I am a home owner at 25 West Shore Drive and am an active member in the HLCA. The bid to create a special tax district to enable the repair of the dam on the lake is an extremely important issue that I have been involved with for many years. I strongly recommend that the Select Board allow the creation of the HLCA Special Tax District in order to preserve the wonderful resource of Helderberg Lake.

I am a professional planner and have spent many years supporting the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and many other Boards and Committees in the Town of Amherst, MA. I have a deep understanding of the complexities and issues facing the Town of Berne. I am grateful that the State of New York Land Use Law allows for the creation of such Special Tax Districts as I see it is one of the few ways of equitably supporting a "private" resource such as Helderberg Lake. While it is always difficult for people to vote to tax themselves, this effort has garnered overwhelming support within the Helderberg Lake Community Association because we understand the value of the Lake to our properties and see this as the only fair way to enable the expensive dam repairs.

My worst fear is that we are unable to create this Special Tax District and therefore cannot finance the expensive dam repairs which would force the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to take extreme measures like removing the dam. This would dramatically decrease the value of our properties and be a significant revenue loss for the Town of Berne. I am grateful for the opportunity to spend time on Helderberg Lake located in such a scenic and beautiful town. I strongly recommend that the Select Board support the creation of the HLCA Special Tax District so that we can preserve this valuable community resource.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Niels la Cour